

Remarks

Claims 1-29 were originally filed with the present application. The Examiner has rejected the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16-18, 24-25, and 27-28. The Examiner objected to Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 19, 21-24, 26, and 29 as being dependent upon rejected base claims. However, the Examiner noted that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Claims 2, 5, 8, 10, 14, 18, 22, and 28 have been cancelled and Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 19, 20, and 23-27 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-13, 15-17, 19-21, 23-27, and 29 are now pending in this application.

DOUBLE PATENTING

The Examiner objected to Claims 22 and 28 under 37 CFR §1.75. Claims 22 and 28 have been cancelled addressing the Examiner's concerns.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §112

The Examiner rejected Claims 21, 23, and 24 under the second paragraph of §112. Problems with antecedent basis were noted for each case. Claims 21, 23, and 24 have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16-18, 20, 24, 25, 27, and 28 as being anticipated by USPN 6,441,920 issued to Smith.

Prior to its cancellation, Claim 2 depended from Claim 1. The Examiner noted that Claim 2 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. To this end, Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 1 and is felt to distinguish over Smith.

Claims 5, 8, and 10 have been cancelled.

Prior to its cancellation, Claim 14 depended from Claim 13. The Examiner noted that Claim 14 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. To this

end, Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 14 and is felt to distinguish over Smith. Claims 16 and 17 are felt to distinguish over Smith based at least on their dependency from Claim 13.

Claim 18 has been cancelled.

Claims 20, 24, and 25 have been amended to depend from Claim 19. The Examiner noted that Claim 19 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. To this end, Claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 18 and is felt to distinguish over Smith. Claims 20, 24, and 25 are felt to distinguish over Smith based at least on their dependency from Claim 19.

Prior to its cancellation, the Examiner noted that Claim 2 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claim 27 has been amended to include a limitation similar to that found in Claim 2 and is felt to distinguish over Smith.

Claim 28 has been cancelled.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner objected to Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 19, 22, 26, and 29 as being dependent on rejected base claims. The Examiner noted that these claims would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 2 has been cancelled, but its limitations have been added to Claim 1. Claim 3 depends from Claim 1. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of Claim 1. Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of Claims 1 and 5. Claim 7 depends from Claim 6.

Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitation of Claim 8. Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitation of Claim 10. Claim 12 depends from Claim 11.

Claim 14 has been cancelled, but its limitations have been added to Claim 13. Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of Claim 13. Claim 19 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitation of Claim 18. Claim 22 has been cancelled. Claim 26

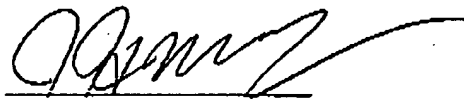
has been rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitation of Claim 18.

Claim 29 depends from Claim 27

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-13, 15-17, 19-21, 23-27, and 29 define allowable subject matter. The Examiner is requested to indicate the allowability of all claims in the application and to pass the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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